Overhauling of STC and MMTC

33. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to overhaul the two joint public sector trading companies, State Trading Corporation and the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation Ltd.;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the changes contemplated to be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) With the liberalisation of the economy and decanalisation of most of the items of imports and exports, the turnover of both STC and MMTC has been showing a declining trend. In order to reorient and restructure the STC and MMTC in a manner consistent with liberalisation and a competitive environment, a number of measures has been initiated which inter-alia include the engagement of a consultant to study and make appropriate recommendations on the organisational structure and other related issues of these organisations, and formulation of strategies and diversification plans by the corporations themselves for adapting to the new environment.

34. [*Transferred to 30th April, 1993*]

Modifications on Dunkel Draft

35. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Central Government have proposed any modifications in the Dunkel Draft; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) During the discussions held in Geneva in December, 1992, India sought changes, improvements and understandings on, inter-alia, the following :—

(i) In *Textiles* on the back loading of the draft agreement.

(ii) In *trips* on compulsory licensing importation as working, clean transition period, patenting of genetic material and sui generis system of protection for plant varieties.

(iii) In *Agriculture* on food stocking, public distribution and minimum market access; and

(iv) In *Services* on movement of skilled and professional personnel.

Terror Network in Indo-Russian Trade

36. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a new terror network operating in Moscow which has spread its tentacles in the realm of Indo-Russian trade;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Indian exporters are resigned to dealing with the mafia and the price is virtually determined by the mafia;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) what action Government have taken in this regard so far ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d) While some reports have been received about the deteriorating law and order situation in the Russian Federation, it can not be said to have affected the Indo-Russian trade. Incidents of assaults on Indian businessmen are taken up immediately by our Embassy at Moscow with the concerned authorities for redressal.

Export of Shrimp

37. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that shrimp exports in terms of quantity has remained stagnant in 1992-93;